Sustaining Environmental Capital: Making it Happen

Assessments

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**BEST Approach**

**Framework:**
**Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Trends (BEST) Assessment**

- **Decisions & Policies Impacting Natural Resources**
  - Management of land, water, air, infrastructure, biodiversity, ecosystems

- **Ecosystem Capital & Services Affected**
  - Provisioning (e.g., food)
  - Regulating (flood control)
  - Cultural (recreation)
  - Supporting (soil formation)

- **Indicators & Metrics of Change**
  - Status of Natural Capital
  - Flows of Ecosystem Services
  - Benefits to Humanity

- **Existing Assessment & Monitoring Programs**
  - Emphasis on using existing Federal assessments

- **Potential value added components for BEST subject to resources**

- **Supply, Service & Benefits**
  - Supply: the biophysical components of ecosystems
  - Service: the components enjoyed by humans
  - Benefits: the changes to human well-being

- **Valuation**
  - Monetary/Non-monetary Scenarios/Forecasting Research
BEST Approach (continued)

• Build On and Improve Existing Federal Activities

• Identify Coverage and Gaps in Current Assessments and Activities: Pilot survey of Federal agency assessments and assessment programs

• Seek Lessons from Previous Status and Trends Assessments: Federally-sponsored stakeholder outreach workshop

• Identify Stakeholder Needs: Canvass stakeholders at existing workshops to identify their needs

• Seek Collaboration and Partnership Opportunities
Moving Forward

- Pilot projects proposed on biodiversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem services in decision making and assessment – learning what works
- Collate common understandings, methodologies, and definitions
- Support guidance for agencies
- Expand partnerships with other agencies and non-governmental organizations
- Research, synthesis, & filling of data gaps